NCI-FREDERICK ANIMAL CARE AND USE NEWSLETTER

September 2004

Newsletter Contents

Getting to Know Your ACUC

The ACUC is committed to working with its investigators to facilitate their research endeavors and to ensure that humane animal practices are implemented to assure reliable scientific data. It is important for the animal users at the NCI-Frederick to become familiar with the individuals that voluntarily devote their time and efforts to the ACUC in support of your research. The committee consists of a diverse group of individuals representing various aspects of the NCI-Frederick research community (science, safety, and veterinary care) as well as the general public. To acquaint yourself with the ACUC, we will utilize this newsletter to spotlight individual members.

Dr. Melinda Hollingshead
Chair of the NCI-Frederick
Animal Care and Use Committee

Dr. Hollingshead is the Veterinary Medical Officer for the Biological Testing Branch (DTP, DCTDC, NCI). The mission of the BTB is:

- To plan, direct, and implement a contract-supported program to screen compounds for evidence of clinical efficacy in vitro and in vivo;
- To develop new screening models;
- To produce, provide quality control for, and distribute to the NCI, NIH, and grantee community, genetically and biologically defined rodents; and
- To maintain a repository of experimental animal and human tumor cell lines for use in research performed by the Program and other qualified investigators; and to define and publish biological testing screening protocols.

Specifically, Dr. Hollingshead's research focuses on assessing the in vivo effect of potential therapeutic agents submitted to the Developmental Therapeutics Program by extramural and intramural investigators. Her current interests include developing orthotopic tumor models using bioluminescent imaging endpoints and evaluating pharmacodynamic endpoints in tumors undergoing in vivo treatment. She has served on the ACUC since 1995. She believes an Institutional ACUC is an important component of any in vivo research effort as it is the primary mechanism whereby studies involving animals can be deemed humane and thus provides assurances to the community that appropriate research is being conducted. Additionally, the combined experiences of the committee members can assist other investigators by offering information and insight into experimental protocols.

Revised Guidelines, Policies, and Recommendations

The ACUC has recently revised the following Guidelines, Policies, and Recommendations. Please ensure that you and your staff review these guidelines and incorporate the revisions as they apply to your research study.

Categorizing Significant Deficiencies/OLAW Reporting
Designated Member Review and Expedited Review
Helpful Hints for Completing the NCI-Frederick ASP

Form Revision - Recombinant DNA in Animal Models

The ACUC, in conjunction with the NCI-Frederick Institutional Biosafety Committee, recently (August 2004) revised the NCI-Frederick Animal Study Proposal Form to incorporate a new section (B1) that will address potential health threats to humans working with transgenic mouse models. Please visit the ACUC web at http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/acuc/fred/guidelines/Recombinant_DNA.pdf for an overview of the possible risks associated with viral elements in animal experiments and the questions to consider when conducting an experiment involving viral elements. For all proposal submissions, please check the ACUC website to ensure you are working with the most current version of the NCI-Frederick ASP form.

Receiving and Quarantine Forms

There have been recent management changes in our Receiving and Quarantine Facility (R&Q). As always, we remain committed to providing this vital service to all NCI and SAIC investigators in a way that is as expedient and efficient as possible. Toward that end, several forms are available electronically. On the LASP website, we now have the Request for Rederivation Services, Request for Animal Shipment, and the Request for Receipt of Animals into R&Q. Since all of these processes involve multiple layers of staff, not only within our facilities, but on the exporting campuses as well, it is extremely important that these forms be **completed entirely** before faxing or forwarding to R&Q. To be sure that no request is overlooked or delayed, if you have a request in the system (importation, shipping, rederivation, or cryopreservation) please call for a status update and we are happy to look into it and to tell you where we are in the process. The contact for R&Q is Ms. Angie Smith, (Acting Manager), Mr. Troy Cregger (Supervisor), or Ms. Sandra Warfield (Secretary). They can be reached by phone at 301-846-1133 or by fax at 301-846-6031. For those of you who can attach electronic forms, the email address is r_and_q@mail.ncifcrf.gov. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Fur Mite Update

Efforts to eradicate fur mites from the 567 Barrier Animal Facility are ongoing. The infestation has been confined and contained to a few rooms. All mice moving from the Barrier to the Limited Access areas in Building 567 are being tested. Also, the dosage of Mite Arrest® (Permethrin) has been increased and all recent testing has been negative. Please contact Mr. Gene Oliver, Building 567 Facility Manager, at 301-846-1387 for additional information regarding the movement of animals and specific animal room details. We ask that all facility and scientific personnel continue to be mindful of the current containment practices to assist in the containment process.

Pinworm Update

Building 571 has been quarantined because of pinworms for several weeks. We are happy to report that our sentinels and random colony surveillance has continued to be negative for pinworms. As an added assurance, we have now added the much more sensitive SCID mouse as sentinels. The SCID's are exposed for four weeks. We have started our final stage of testing to see if we are finally free of pinworm. As always we appreciate the continued cooperation of scientific and support staff in helping us to contain this unwanted agent.

AALAS Certification Training Program

The LASP promotes and encourages animal care and technical personnel to pursue professional certification through the American Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences (AALAS). AALAS certification is the highest recognition for animal caretakers and technicians in the laboratory animal science profession. The AALAS Technician Certification Program recognizes professional achievement and endorses competence in laboratory animal technology. Laboratory animal personnel are certified at three levels: Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT), Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT) and Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG). Certification at each level requires meeting prerequisites in education and experience, and passing a corresponding certification examination. AALAS certification is recognized by other professional organizations as evidence of a highly educated staff. It demonstrates that continuing education is important, that technical competence is valued and that the animal care and technical staff is dedicated to the profession.

LASP currently conducts a 16-week in-house training course twice yearly to prepare animal care and technical personnel for the AALAS, ALAT, and LAT certification examinations. Additionally, LASP offers access to the AALAS Learning Library, an online learning platform for personnel pursuing LATG certification.

LASP, through its AALAS certification training program, actively promotes the highest standard of professionalism in the field of laboratory animal care.

For additional information or assistance,
please visit the ACUC website at
http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/acuc/fred/main.asp

VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A MEMBER

If you are willing to serve as an ACUC member or any of it's subcommittees, please contact the ACUC Office at ahaltm@ncifcrf.gov

For your animal resource needs in
Frederick and Bethesda …
please visit the newly revised LASP website at
http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/